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TEMPORARY STATUTES
OF THE INTERNATIONAL
OF SEAMEN AND HARBOUR WORKERS

1. - Name.

The International Conference of revolutionary seamen and dockers resolves to create an international trade union federation called the "International of Seamen and Harbour Workers."

2. - Aims and Tasks.

The International of Seamen and Harbour Workers aims:

(a) To organise the seamen, river and port workers according to the industrial principle into the revolutionary unions, minorities and oppositions, for the purpose of struggling for the emancipation of the workers from the yoke of capitalist exploitation.

(b) To organise and lead the struggle for the defence of the everyday interests of the seamen and dockers (higher wages, shorter working hours, better working conditions, insurance at the expense of the employers, etc.), and for attaining the final aims of the working class on the basis of the united front of all seamen, river workers and dockers, organised as well as unorganised, employed as well as unemployed, against the joint forces of the employers, the bourgeois State apparatus and the social fascist trade union bureaucracy.

(c) At consolidating all forces of the seamen, the dockers and river workers for the struggle against oppressive maritime laws, class collaboration and the policy of social

peace

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peace, against arbitration, against the International Labour Office of the League of Nations, against race prejudice and fascism, against the social fascist International Transport Workers' Federation -- the agency of the bourgeoisie in the ranks of the proletarians of the marine transport industry:

In order to realise these aims the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers:

(a) Maintains close contact and leads the activity of all seamen's trade union organisations, as well as of the river workers and dockers, affiliating with the International;

(b) carries out the international leadership of the strike movement of the struggling workers, helps the extension of the struggle outside the national boundaries, organises international solidarity manifestations and international relief for the strikers;

(c) renders direct help to its sections in developing their daily activities, in organising the unorganised, etc., and regularly instructs the sections concerning the methods and means for carrying on the struggle;

(d) supplies all of its sections with material concerning the conditions in the seamen's and dockers' movement, the labour conditions, wages, etc.; organises the international exchange of experiences gained in the struggle by the seamen and dockers of the different countries;

(e) carries on agitation and propaganda of the ideas of the revolutionary class struggle;

(f) sets up in the different ports International clubs for the purpose of lining up most effectively and uniting internationally the wide masses of seamen;

(g)

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(g) publishes magazines, bulletins, leaflets and other periodical and non-periodical literature in the different languages.

3. - Composition.

Into the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers both independent seamen's and dockers' trade unions may be accepted, as well as the trade union minorities and oppositions of the reformist and other reactionary unions, recognising the principle of the consistent class struggle and approving of the statutes of the International.

4. - The Congress.

The highest organ of the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers is the International Congress. The Congress draws up the general principles, programme and tactics, endorses the statutes of the International and elects its leading bodies.

The right to representation at the Congress can be had by all independent unions, trade unions, minorities and oppositions inside the reformist and other reactionary unions affiliated to the International.

5. - The Executive.

The highest leading body of the International from Congress to Congress is the Executive Committee.

The inaugural Conference elects a temporary Executive comprised of twenty-one persons.

The tasks of the temporary Executive are:

(a) The preparation of the convocation of the World Seamen's, Dockers' and River Workers' Congress;

(b) work for lining up the unorganised seamen and dockers;

(c)

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(c) to strengthen the independent unions, the trade union oppositions and minorities and to lead their work;

(d) to lead the class struggle of the workers in the marine transport industry;

(e) to lead the work of the International Seamen's Clubs.

For the realisation of these tasks the temporary Executive appoints from among its comrades a Bureau comprised of five. The rest of the members of the Executive carry on work in the different localities, as the local representatives of the Executive.

The duties of the Bureau are:

(a) The execution of the orders and decisions of the temporary Executive;

(b) the setting up of close and regular contacts with all of its affiliated organisations;

(c) giving instructions to the local organisations and International Seamen's Clubs;

(d) working up, on the basis of the general directives of the temporary Executive, questions concerning the class movement in the marine and river transport industry;

(e) publishing a magazine and bulletin;

(f) the provision of all organisations and International Seamen's Clubs affiliated to the temporary Executive with corresponding literature, information, etc.;

(g) the organisation of international relief during conflicts, strikes, etc.;

(h) the participation through its representatives, on behalf of the Provisional Executive in the different organisations, at National Congresses and Conferences of the workers of the marine and river transport industry;

(i) the carrying on of all the regular correspondence

and

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and connections with the different organisations and persons.

Plenums of the temporary Executive are to be convened once every six months. Under exclusive circumstances the Bureau has the right to convene a Plenary Session before six months are up, upon the demand of not less than one-third of the members of the Executive.

The decisions of the temporary Executive are obligatory for all affiliated organisations.

The time and place for the convocation of the World Congress are fixed by the temporary Executive. The agenda and order of elections as well as the number of representatives allotted to the different organisations at the Congress must be published beforehand.

6. - Funds.

The funds of the International are made up of:

(a) The regular monthly dues of the International's affiliated organisations;

(b) extra collections organised by the different organisations in the various localities.

The temporary Executive has the right, in order to increase its funds, to issue special stamps, etc.

7. - The International Solidarity Fund.

For the purpose of supporting the militant economic demands and struggles of the seamen and dockers in the different countries, an International Solidarity Fund is organised. The Fund is comprised of: (a) special funds set aside from the regular dues of the International's affiliated Sections; (b) by special collections and donations.

8. - Place.

The International is to have its headquarters in Hamburg.